

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A smoke generator for a model toy train, the model toy train having an electric motor, the electric motor operative in moving the train, the smoke generator comprising:

a smoke generating element to generate smoke;

a fan driven by a fan motor, the fan positioned proximate to the smoke generating element such that an airstream generated by the fan moves the smoke; and

a controller for receiving a signal corresponding to a load on the electric motor, ~~the controller operative to adjust the airstream in response to the signal by controlling fan motor velocity in proportion to the load on the electric motor~~ wherein the controller is programmed to:

send an output current to the fan motor in response to the received signal, such that the fan motor responds to the output current by driving the fan at a velocity proportional to the received signal; and

after a predetermined time period, reverse the output current to the fan motor to abruptly stop the fan, and thereby generate a puffing pattern of smoke.

24. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the controller includes a memory, and the fan is controlled in accordance with a program stored in the memory.

25. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, further comprising a gasket for thermally insulating the fan and fan motor, at least partially, with respect to the smoke generating element.

26. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the smoke generating element is formed of nickel and chromium.

27. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 26, wherein the smoke generating element includes a wire having opposite ends and the opposite ends of the wire are engaged with a terminal.

28. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the fan is at least one of a fan selected from the group consisting of an axial fan, a radial flow fan, a mixed flow fan and a cross flow fan.

29. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, wherein a housing is operably associated with the train, the housing having interconnected first and second sub-housings in fluid communication with respect to each other, the first sub-housing at least partially enclosing the smoke generating element, the second sub-housing at least partially enclosing the fan and fan motor.

30. (Previously presented) A smoke generator in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the controller is operative to stop the fan motor by reversing voltage applied to the fan motor.